EXTRA SESSIONS.

A RISTORICAL REVIEW.

Congress's Meetings to Extra Session, and the Beasons for Their Call-Some Very Interesting History Concerning Important Events-The Prolonged Debate or

the Congress Clause in the Constitution, WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.-The Censtitution. Article II., section 3., provides that "the President may, on extraordinary occasions, convene both houses or either of them."

As originally reported by John Rutledge of South Carolina, from the Committee on Detail of the Federal Convention of 1787, Article III. was as follows:

The legislative power shall be vested in a Congress, to consist of two separate and distinct bodies of men, a House of Representatives and a Senate. each of which shall to all cases have a negative on the other. The Legislature shall meet on the first Monday in December every year.

When that article was taken up for consideration, James Madison of Virginia desired to know the reasons of the committee for fix ing by the Constitution the time of meeting of Congress, suggesting that only one meeting should be held every year, leaving the time to be fixed or varied by law. Gonverneur Morris of New York moved to strike out the sentence, as it was improper, he thought, to tie down the Legislature to a particular time. Na-thaniel Gorham of Massachusetts thought the time of meeting should be fixed, as otherwise States would be at a loss to adjust thereto the times of their elections. In the New England States the annual time of meeting had been long fixed by their charters and constitutions. and no inconvenience had resulted. He thought it pecessary there should be one meeting at least every year, as a check on the executive department. Oliver Elisworth of Connecticut was opposed to striking out the words. Rufus King of Massachusetts did not think there was a necessity for a meeting each year, A great vice in our system was that of legislating too much. The most numerous objects of legislation belong to the States. Those of the national Legislature were but few. The

chief of them were commerce and revenue.

Mr. Madison renewed his objection to the provision, and added as a strong consideration that it might happen that the Congress might be called together by the public exigencies and finish their session but a short time before the annual period, in which case it would be inconvenient to reassemble so quickly. Mr. Mason of Virginia believed "that an annual meeting should be required as essential to the preservation of the Constitution. The extent of the country will supply business, and if it should not, the Legislature, besides legislative, is to have inquisitorial powers which cannot safely be long kept in a state of suspension." Roger Sherman of Connecticut was decided for fixing the time, as well as for frequent meetings of the legislative body. "Discutes and difficulties will arise between the two houses, and between both and the States, if houses, and between both and the States, if the time be changeable. Frequent meetings of Parliament were required, at the Revolution in England, as an essential safeguard to liberty. So also are snaual meetings in most of the American charters and constitutions. There will be business enough to require it. The Western country and the great extent and varying state of our affairs in general will supply objects."

varying state of our affairs in general will supply objects."
Edmund Randolph of Virginia was against fixing any day irrevocably, but as there was no provision made anywhere in the Constitution for regulating the periods of meeting and some precite time must be tixed, until the Legislature shall make provision, he could not agree to strike out the words altogether. Instead of which, he moved to add the following words: "Unless a different day shall be appointed by law," Mr. Madison seconded the motion, and it was agreed to by a vote of S to 2, New Hampshire and Connecticut voting in the negative.

pointed by law." Mr. Madison seconded the motion, and it was agreed to by a vote of S to Y. New Hampshire and Connecticut voting in the negative.

Mr. Morris moved to strike out "December" and insert "May." "It misat frequently happen that our measures ought to be influenced by those in Europo, which were generally planned during the winter, and of which intelligence would arrive in the spring." Mr. Madison seconded the motion. "He preferred May to December, because the latter would require the travelling to and from the seat of government in the most inconvenient season of the year." Mr. Elisworth was opposed to May, saving: "The summer will interfere too much with private business, that of aimost all the probable members of the Legislature being more or less connected with agriculture." On the question to insert "May," the ayes were 2 (South Car ina and Georgia), and 'e noes were R. __s ame.dment of Mr. Randolph was thereupon agreed to.

Article III., as reported, was further amended by striking out the words "each of which shall in all cases have a negative on the other" and by adding the words "unless they shall by law appoint a different day."

This, in the final revision, became clause 2. Section 4. Article I., with the substitution of the word "Congress" for "Legislature." The first season—convened on March 4, 1789—did not adjourn until Sont. 29, a period of 210 days, while by act of Sect. 29 It fixed the day of meeting of the first season on Jan. 4, 1789—did not adjourn until Sont. 29, a period of 210 days, while by act of Sect. 29 It fixed the day of meeting of the first season on Jan. 4, 1789—did not adjourn until Sont. 29, a period of 210 days, while by act of Sect. 29 It fixed the day of meeting of the first season on Jan. 4, 1789. And, by act of May 5, convened the second season of that Congress there had been five "extra" seasons called, and by net of Congress the time was changed from the first Menday in December. The revendency occasions, convene both houses, or either of them." Was in the repor

the experience of the Continental Congress and the belief that exigencies should be provided for.

The power of convening Congress 'on extraorditary occasions' has been exercised by nine Presidents, viz.: John Adams, Jefferson (twice), Madison itwice). Van Buren, Harrison, Pierce, Linceln, Hayes (twice), and Gleveland, making in all twelve "extra" sessions out of the 118 sessions of Congress held during the continy of our existence as a nation under the

the 118 sessions of Congress held during the century of our existence as a nation under the Constitution.

The first "extra" session of Congress was abled by President John Adams, and convened on Monday. May 15, 1797, and was the first session of the Fifth Congress.

It was called on account of the suspension of lipleomatic intercourse with France, on the present, on the part of the First hydrogen that the Jay treaty was a violation on our part of a solemn comment in relation to the France Mrs. India possessions. Our Minister to France, Mr. Charles C. Pinckney, bad been expedied from that country by the Directory, which had issued further orders for depredation on American commerce more unjust and injurious than their former decreer.

Mr. Duyton of New Jersey was again elected Speaker, and, there being a decided Federal

Speaker, and, there being a decided Federal majority in each branch of Congress, the Presi-

President Madison, who convened the Twelfth Congress on the 4th day of November, 1811, to consider questions growin; out of the condition of foreign affairs, essecially resulting from the British Orders in Council, and the French edicts, which seriously affected our commerce. The affair of the Little Belt was deemed likely to lead to war, the bitter feeling growing out of the attack on the Chesspeaks not having subsided. The President carnessly urged upon Congress "the duty of putting the Unite! States into an armor and attitude demanded by the crists, and corresponding with the national spirit and expectations." The "war spirit" of the day was strikingly manifested in the election of Henry Clay, as Speaked, over William W. Bibb of Georgia, the beace candidate, by a vote of 75 to 38. Although Mr. Clay had served three years in the Senate, he was comparatively unknown, the country quite scnerally confusing the Speaker-elect with Matthew Clay of Virginia. "So much," says Schouler. "for a three years' record at this epoch in the United States Senate, where owl-like sentority blinked down impetuous youth." It was during this session that Mr. Clay took the floor in support of the Senate bill for 25,000 additional troops when the defeat of that measure seemed certain, his spirited and eloquent speech saving the bill, the first instance of a Speaker taking part in the debates of the House. During this session many important measures were passed in harmony with the President's recommendations, plans of internal revenue were considered, and custom duties were doubted. Treasury notes bearing interest were authorized to the amount of \$5,000,000. A 0 per cent. loan of \$11,000,000 was granted, so that upon the declaration of war against Great Britain by the act of June, 1812, the Government was as fully prepared for the emergency as possible. The secsion terminated July 6, 1812, the second session being fixed for Nov. 2 followings, and the first seasion of the Thirteenth Congress being set for May 24, 1813. Henry Clay was r

new embargo act was passed applying to all vessels. In August, 1814, occurred the sack and burning of Washington, the excuss for which was given out as the necessary deturnation of the Capitol building and Government archives.

In spite of the fact that the second session of the Thirteenth Congress, which adjourned April 18, 1814, had fixed the commencepent of the third session on the Tourth Monday of the Capitol of Aug. 8 the third session was convened Sept. 19, 1818.

It assembled under peculiar circumstances. The city had been nearly destroyed, and out of the heap of rubbish could be seen the black-ened walls of the Capitol, firm enough, however, to be used for rebuilding. Congress practiced at temporary shelter and proceeded to consider the three great questions which embarrassed it: First, a large, Treasury deficiency; second, disaffiction of the New England States; third, the delicate negotiations with the war. Most of the banks outside of the New England States that submed the service of the war, while the depreciation in other States ranged as high as 40 ner cent. Treasury notes were again resorted to, tax bills were numerious, including subjects not theretofore resorted to, and alfrest tax was laid.

The Hartford Convention asgravated the situation, and though its full proceedings have never been published—its scaled journal, when opened, being found to contain a mesure sketch of formal proceed lings—enough is nown to show that a deliberate attempt was made by representative Federalists to procure a senation of the States. To use the flinistration of a distinguished writer, "the Hartford Convention asgravated the situation, and though its full proceedings have never been published—its scaled journal, when opened, being found to contain a mesure sketch of formal proceedings of the timber of the to

growth of new American cities and centres of trade. In the very midst of this enange, Jackson commenced his fight on the National Bank. The result was the dismantlement of the bank by the removal of the nublic deposits in 1833, although the Finance Committee of the Senate in March, 1830, had unanimously said they were "satisfied that the country is in the enjoyment of a uniform national currency, not only sound and uniform in fiself, but perfectly adapted to all the purposes of the flowernment and the ammunity, and more sound and uniform than that boosessed by any other country."

In the seven years from 1830 to 1837, the nomlinal capital of State banks had increased from \$110,000,000 to \$295,000,000. The "specie circular" directing that nothing but gold and silver should be received in payment of the public lands, discriminated against the depreciated paper of the State banks he had created, while to culminate the crisis and created was saidy impaired—had to draw on their banks for specie to ship across the Atlantic.

It was under such serious conditions that the Twenty-fourth Congress convened in extra session. Mr. Polk was re-elected Speaker by a narrow majority. The President's message recited the disastrous events of the preceding six months and the deficit in the Treasury, The only measure of relief proposed by President Van Buren was the plan or scheme of Independent, or, as was more commonly styled, the "sub-treasury," which was a combite divorce of the tovernment and all its operations from banks. That proposition failed and Treasury notes (act of Oct, 12, 1837) were lasued, though less in amount than recommended by Mr. Van Buren, Another neasure of temporary relief postponed the payment of the fourth surplus installment to the States. A few minor measures of temporary relief were nassed, but both parties were content to wait until t

passed, including acts for the organization of the militia and providing for a may a larmanent, the session clasing on the 10th of July, after fixing Nov. 13 as the time of meeting of the accord session was the time of meeting of the accord session of the Little Compress, convened by President Jefferson on Moniay, Oct. 17, 1803.

The "extraordinary occasion" necessitating, in the opinion of Mr. Jefferson, an extra session of Congress, was the secret cession of Louisiana by the King of Spain to France, the Intendant of Louisiana being instructed to make the formal delivery precisely as it was been of Congress, was the secret cession of Louisiana by the King of Spain to France, the Intendant of Louisiana being instructed to make the formal delivery precisely as it was been of deposit for merchandles, foreign commerce being forbidden that port unless carried on by Spainsh subjects in Spanish bottoms.

Speaker Mason was re-elected without opposition, and as both branches were friendly to the Administration by large majorities. The liquid of the execution of the treaty.

During this session the unpopular bank-ruptey act was repealed, and several important incasures, jassed, including acts authorizing the President to take coassession of Louisna but two Territories, and providing for the temporary powerment thereof.

The attack upon the Chesaprask by the Leopard and the seizure of alleged deserters from the British navy under the "Fibt of search of the provident for the passage of an "embarco act"—the little f

Begin the New Year with a Caw's Safety Fountain Pen

-A NEW PEN ON A NEW PRINCIPLE-THE ONLY FOUNTAIN PEN THAT NEVER LEAKS, BLOTS OR DRIES UP-'CAW'S IT CAN'T-ALL OTHER FOUR-

May be carried upside down in pecket or loose in ladies' shopping bag with

perfect "SAFETY." Thousands are buying it because the theu sands who have bought it like it so well-89.50 up-a solld gold pen in each holder



CAW'S PEN AND INE COMPANY, 168 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, The Largest Fountain Pen Manufacturers IN THE WORLD,

throughout the entire country, but it saved the Whig party from destruction. This "extra" session, but for President Harrison's untimely death, would have strengthened the Whig party, and placed Henry Clay in the White House four years later.

The failure of the Thirty-fourth Congress (which adjourned Aug. 18, 1856) to make provision for the army for the ensuing fiscal year, necessitated an "extra" session, which was accordingly called by President Pierce, and met on the 21st day of August, three days after the close of the first session.

The differences between the two houses in regard to that bill related to the amendment submitted by Mr. Lewis D. Campbell of Ohio, and adopted by a close vote, which prohibited the employment of the army in the enforcement of any enactment of the Territorial Legislature of Kansas until such enactment had been affirmed or approved by Congress. The House again passed the bill with this provision, to which the Senate would not agree, and a new bill was thereupon passed and approved without this provision, the session terminating on the 30th of August.

The next "extra" session was the first session of the Thirty-seventh (Congress, conveyed on

Government to fulfill its pecuniary of the Government to fulfill its pecuniary obligations in money universally recognized by all civilized countries."

On Aug. 11 Chairman Wilson introduced a bill to repeal the burchasing clause of the Sherman act. The debate ran until Aug. 28, and after various amendments adding provisions for the free collase of silver were voted down, the bill was passed by yeas 239 to mays 109, a majority of the affirmative vote being Republican and of the negative vote being Republican and of the heat insched a substitute for the last clause of the bill, in which it was declared to be the policy of the United States to continue the use of both gaid and silver as standard money. To coll both gaid and silver as standard money, to coll both into money of equal intrinsio and exchangeable value, such equality to be secured by international agreement as will insure the maintenance of the parity in value of colns of the two metals. A further declaration in favor of himstallism was made, and, as amended, the bill passed on Oct. 30 by 43 to 32, a majority of Republican Senators voting ave and three-fourths of the Democratic Senators voting no. The Senate amendment was concurred in the yeas 194 to mays 94, and the bill was approved.

So far as the session was concerned, it was besides the repeal of the purchasing clause of the Berman act. barren of results, and the repeal of the law has not borne the fruit expected. It may be said that the "extra" session really laid the foundation of Secretary Carlisic, and that the "lame and impotent conclusions"—or results, rather—of that "extra" session called, the first session of the Tweifth Congress had on overwhelming defeat of the Democratic on party in November last.

Of the tweive "extra" session called, the first session of the Tweifth Congress, called by Mr. Madison, was the longest (245 days), and the second seasion of the Thir

Congress, called by Mr. Pierce, was the shortest ten days.

The annual expenses of Congress approximate four militons of dollars, and an extra session of Congress does not cost, besides the printing, to exceed \$75,000 per nonth, as miloage is allowed for but two sessions of Congress, while the great mass of business left unfinished at the expiration of each Congress will readily suggest the absolute necessity of providing for at least three annual sessions of each Congress. Under the present law, a Representative takes his seat just thirteen months after his election to the glouse of Representatives, while his term and salary commence about four months after his election.

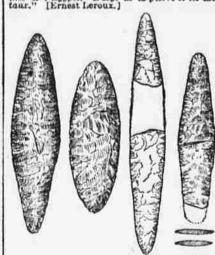
All this will doubtless receive the careful consideration of the President-elect, who has personal knowledge of this anomalous condition of affairs, and has expressed his personal belief that it should be corrected by proper legislation.

EARLY MAN IN EGYPT.

MR, DE MORGAN'S RESEARCRES

Evenwattens to the Diluctum of the Nils and What They Have Produced-Cut Fitnt Instruments and Prohistoric Tombo Biscovered-The Necropolis of Abydes -Wonderful Stone Instruments and Grammats and Pottery-History of M. de Morgan's Excavations and of His Deductions from His Discoveries.

Such scholars as Legalus, Mariette, Chabas, Maspero, and Petrie have attributed the stone implements excavated in Egypt to historic times, and even to a very late period; while prehistorians, like John Lubbock, John Evans, Hamy, de Mortillet, and others treat them as witnesses of an infant civilization yet unknown, but the existence of which should not be desied. With the view of determining this important question, the Egyptian Director-General of Antiquities, M. Jaques de Morgan, eral of Antiquities, M. Jaques de Morgan, during several years of excavations and researches, has devoted his special attention to the collection of information and documents tending to throw light on the subject. The results of his patient labor have just appeared at Paris under the title, "Recherches our les Originas de l'Egypte. L'Age de la pierre et les Metaux." [Ernest Leroux.]



simplified by Mr. Levis B. Campbell of Ohios and adotted by a close over, which prohibited mont of any enactment of the Territorial Lecken afternation of any enactment of the Territorial Lecken afternation of approved by Congress. The lituse again, peased the Sull with this provides a new bill was thereupon passed on terminate The Congress of the Congress of the Congress of the Sull of August.

The next 'extra' essaion was the first session that it had virt. 1601 by President Invoide. The congress of the Litted States, and the obstructions that such of virt. It had seen the congress of the Litted States, and the obstructions of the Litted States, and the obstructions that southern States annued. 'It ye combisations of the Litted States, and the obstructions that southern States annued.' It was easily the congress of the Litted States, and the obstructions that southern States annued. 'It was easily the congress of the Litted States, and the obstructions that southern States annued.' It was easily the congress of the Litted States, and the obstructions that southern States annued. 'It was easily the congress of the Litted States, and the obstructions that the congress of the Litted States, and the obstructions of the Congress of the Litted States, and the obstructions of the Congress of the Litted States, and the States of the Litted States, and the Congress of the Litted States, and the States of the Litted States, and the Congress of the Litted States, and the Congress of the Litted States of the Li

mains of the rocks which were beauted by this propertial insulation action much the were true in the street were true in the street where the were true in the street where the were true in the street where the were the street where the were the street where the were the street of the street where the were the street had were the street had were the street had were the street had were an endangered with the debre true had were an endangered with the street had were the street had were an endangered with the debre true had were an endangered with the street had the street were true to the were the street of the rose of altitude in the with well as a search which is a search of the concludent flat the rate of increase of altitude in the write weller can be estimated to the concludent flat the rate of increase of altitude in the write weller can be estimated to the concludent flat the rate of increase of altitude in the write well were to state the street were found on the lorder of the street were found on the lorder of the valley and the street of the street were found on the lorder of the valley and the street of the street were found on the lorder of the valley and the street of the street were found on the lorder of the valley and the street of the street were found on the lorder of the valley and the street of the street were found on the lorder of the valley and the street of the street were found on the lorder of the valley and the street of the street were found on the lorder of the valley and the street of the street were found on the lorder of the valley and the street of the street were found on the lorder of the valley and the street were found of the support of the street were found of the support of the street were th

by M. de Morgan in lower Egypt, Abou-Boach, Guigeh, Saggarah, Abou-Sir, Dashur, Helouan, Licht, Meidoum, Kahoun, and Gourob; and also in the Fayoum district at Dimeh, Kom-Achim, Omeel-Atl, Medinet of Madhi, and Gaer-Karoun. He found them, too, in upper Egypt at El Mahasaht. El Karagarah, Omeel-Gash, Abydos, El Amrah, El Karuok, El Karuok, El Karuok, El Karuok, El Karagarah, Omeel-Gash, Abydos, El Amrah, El Karuok, El Gebelein, El Kab, and Chellal.

It is unnecessary to soliow the author in his minute descriptions of such locality, and it is only necessary to say that some of them were the sites of prehistoric factories of flint implements, as, for instance, Abou-Roach, others were camping grounds for Egypt's aboriganes, like Helouan, Licht, and Dimeh. This last locality is described with a special care, el-cause from its relative position to the Hiretel-Karoun he was able to determine, beyond any doubt, its prehistoric district of the ruins of a Roman city, in a natural depression, the situated of which is 100 metres above the present level of the Birket-el-Karoun. During the stoge age water from the lake rea-hed to that level, and the prehistoric station was located on its shore, covering a space of about 500 acres. The implements found are numerous, but mostly broken, as if thrown away after having been used. Diverging from this main station, always at the same level, and at a distance from two to three kilometres, are secondary stations, probby the residences of a few families only. Now in the site of mehistoric stations down toward the actual shore of the lake shore, while the finitum lements are called to a level of only twenty. The main and the probability receded, if you go from the site of mehistoric stations down toward the saturative of the law of the probability of the prehistoric tru

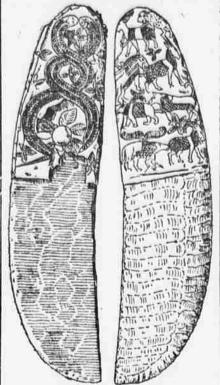
these peoples and the Egyptians were two dif-ferent races.

At Toukh, M. de Mergan found the dwelling place of the prehistoric man. Under a bed of desert drifted sand is a larce field rovered with the débris of sun-dried brick buildings. In these ruins are found in abundance flint tools, broken vases, and bones, all similar to those exhuned from the neolithic tombs. On this spot the explorer discovered nothing later than the prehistoric period. Bronze is exceedingly scarce, and when found the articles are very



produced articles of peculiar shapes, which deserve a special desertition.

First should be mentioned flat and broad fifth batchets, closely resembling the bronze specimens direcevered jointly with them at Kahoun and Licht. As this shape has not yet been discovered in any of the purely neolithic stations, they may be stone copies made by the autochthones from the Egyptian bronze models, and may belong properly to the Pharaonic times. Another sort of objects belonging to the latter part of the neolithic period, and also possibly to the earliest Pharaonic times. They are cut with a skill unsurpassed anywhere.



One of these knives now in the Gizeh Museum is Ris inches long. The handle is decorated with a gold leaf, on which are engraved two snakes and some floral ornaments on one side, and on the other, lious chasing gazelies and antelopes, bedides four other quadrupeds less discernible. This decoration has nothing Egyptian in its style, and corresponds to the mode of ornamentation conserved elsewhere among the prehistoric specimens, more especially on vases. Other articles assumed the shape of knives, but are entirely polished. They may have been used for skinning animals. They are found on the ground at Gournah and in the autochihone tombs at El Amrah. The arrow heads assume numberless snapes, but in this case the author was unable to distinguish the prehistoric from the historic articles.

All the prehistoric arrow heads are pointed, sometimes provided with single (Helonan) or fouble hook tabydos, Dimeh, El Amrah, Tonkh &c., or even finely indented, while the flints used during the historic times are always of an entirely different type, the perforating power arising from the sharp edge of a very small fint blade. When pointed arrow heads appear during the historic times, they are made of bronze. The historic times arrows, says M. de Morgan, "are known through the middle empire, the most recent ones are but little anterior to our era; besides this, we know by the numerous figures of arches which appear on the monuments that the pointed arrow heads could not have been used by the Egyptians long after the beginning of the ancient empire." This dissimilitude of types is sufficient to prove the existence of a neolithic period in Egypt. Besides this, pointed arrow heads, while found abundaolly in the orchistoric settlements, are never discovered on the spots purely Pharaonic, Greek, or Roma".

Other implements profusely found in the prehistoric stations and tomas are the indenced finit blade used as seaws and sockles. A complete specimen, with its wooden setting, was discovered by Flinders Petrie at Kahoun. This tool is

in other collections. Some Exprologists, says M. de Morgan, who believed themselves better informed than others, attributed to the XI. or to the XXII. dynasties, most of these articles, but generally no attention and others articles, but generally no attention as of these articles, but generally no attention as of these articles, but generally no attention something that there is not the ancient empire I have never found the slightest fragment."

In the nectorole of Gobelet-Tarif a small of the ancient empire I have never found the slightest fragment.

In the nectorole of Gobelet-Tarif a small of the ancient of a human seated innec was found. This rude specimen is the only one, but discovered.

Now we come to a branch of industry which is the beat adapted to characterize and date a period—the potter's products. The stone age pottery was mostly exhumed from Unier Exputs necropoles. The excavations were made in the presence of the excavations were made in the presence of the excavation were made in the clay from beds crooping out on the hillsides at various storts. The first material, when fired, unduces yellowish or reddish pottery, according to the degree of heat. From the sedimentary clay is made alight red way. The different of the clay from bottery in the prehistoric tombs is a coarse kind, very hard to discriminate from that met with in the ancient ompire's mastabas. Bealdes these vases are often manifered to the clay boxide of managenese, which is to be found in the Sinal district. The most frequently found nottery in the prehistoric tombs is a coarse kind, very hard to discriminate from that met with in the ancient ompire's mastabas. Bealdes these vases are often manifered and the decoration and the service of the cave of the manifered products of the missing a black box in the first and the service of the cave of the manifered products of the missing that the typical ceramines of the middle and the service of the manifered products of the prehistoric times. They are shown in the first products of the pre

arctic exploration, and it seems likely that during the coming year much important ins formation will be obtained regarding a region of the earth's surface of which we as yet know hardly anything, whose area covers not less than 4,500,000 square miles about once and a half that of the United St. tes, and equal to that of the great Chinese empire, It was with good reason that at the last It was with good reason that at the last international Geograpaical Congress, held in London in the summer of 1895, the first general resolution of recommendations embodied the statement that the greatest plece of geographical work that was left for the future, and one that should be taken up immediately in the present, was the exploration of this terra or aqua incognita. Not since the days of Sir James Clark Ross and Capt. infterward Commodore) Wilkes of the United States navy, or the years 1840-1842, has any sys-tematic research been conducted in this great expanse of southern ice and water, the ice bare riers of which have for one reason or another been assumed to render access to its deeper parts impossible. Yet, strange though it may appear, all this supposition of inaccessibility was based upon the experiences of gallant season men whose highest resource was the sailing vessel, and to whom the modern methods of polar research, as they have been developed within the last quarter of a century, and par-ticularly in the last decade—the period which compasses the remarkable work of Peary and Nansen were practically unknown. Whether in the Arctic or in the Antarctic tracts, the work that was accomplished was done with the as-

compasses the remarkable work of Peary and Nansen—were practically unknown. Whether in the Arctic or in the Antarctic tracts, the work that was accomplished was done with the assistance of a heavy equipment, incilicie, telothers, and a source of food supply which know little or nothing of canned materials and that proper association of sweetmeats and vegetables which have done so nouch to banish scurvy from the sailor's Arctic dreams.

At the present time three expeditions are being planned or actually being placed in commission for the important work of discovery in the south polar regions. At the head of one of these will be the Norwegian, Bercherevink, who, in association with his commander, Capt. Kristensen, in 1894-95, while on a whale catching cruise, reached in Ross's trail latitude 74° south, and made the first landing on what is commonly designated the Antarctio continent, if in reality such a continental massexists. Horchgrevink's fitness for this command seems eminently established, and the lucid, graphic, and wholly unpretentious account of his late experiences has placed to his credit a confidence similar to that which has been reposed in the still more fillustrious sire of Norwegian soil. Fridtof Nansen. To him scientific men owe the first discovery of vegetable forms as part of the product of the southern lands. Up to the year 1895, when frazements of what annear to be true lichens were picked up off the elicak and forbidding locks of Cape Adarl, on Victoria Land, and the offlying Possession Island, it had been assumed that not a trace, type, or form of vegetation of any kind belonged to this inhospitable tract of the south—a tract of land or ice as destitute of terrestrial fauna asi twas assumed to be of a covering or partially covering vegetation. Strangely contrasting is the discovery made by Capt. Larsen in 1893 on Seymour Island, a match of Antarctic land lying almost due south of the anison of vegetable organization, but of the conficial patronare by geological standards—by valuations of th

ileability and the ways and means of furthering an American Antartic expedition, and as the meeting in Hoston of the same body, in the liter days of the present month, the subject will be taken up again. Prof. Angelo Heilprin and E. D. Cope of Philiadelphia are members of this committee, and it is known that they strongly favor the immediate (so far as it may be possible) equitoment of such an expedition. It is thought that \$50,000 will cover an important reconnaissance, if not deep penetration, with one or more steam whalers from the Newfoundland or Norwegian deet.

It seems likely that the point of draham's land, south of Pranaconia, which lies nearer the base of operations than the Victoria Land of Ross, and offers additional advantages to exploration which are not found in the track lying south of Australia. It holds ent, moreover, hopes of important scientific results even with the radiure of the objective aim of any expedition— i.e., hich receiveration southward it was in this track that Larsen obtained his fossil plant remains, and also a number of marine fossils, identical with those found by Darwin sixty years earlier in Tatagonia, which so strongly point to a farmer connection with the South American continent. Somewhat ensiward of this region Neutell, and the same year Capt. Benjamin Morrell, sading from New York, and pretty much, had also a punched by larwin such a farmer connection with the South American continent. Somewhat ensivered to instrude 74 if, south, and the same year Capt. Benjamin Morrell, and the same year Capt. Benjamin Morrell, and the same year dant in the region we would be mer, if met at all, only a sea prace to with the south and the same year for the profession of the substance of positions depending upon the year, tully a thousand miles aparter would be mer, if met at all, only a sea prace, in the contine as the horostonia was the horostonia to the region and the sea manaced of the substance of the substance of the sub

His Economical Wedding Gift.

Prom the Washington Per.

A group of Congressmen were discussing Christmas presents and other gifts yesterday, and one of them told about the experience of a newly weither counte in his district. They have recently been in Washington. At the time of their marriage they received a beautiful piece of bine a brack from a friend of theirs residing in a distant rity. The gift came by experses, and the package, when spend, proved that the deleasts and fragile ware had been broken in transit.

They desided to say nothing to the denor of this, but seknowledged the gift, and when they were in New York city on their weedling trig they yisted the importer, whose business address appeared on the wrapper of the broken article, with the intention of displicating it. They were informed by the firm that it would be impossible for them to duplicate this article.

be impossible for them to duplicate this article, as they had imported only one such, and that had come in a broken condition. It had afterward been sold to such and such a gentleman, a lawyer, in a certain city. It was the friend whe had sont them the wedding gift.